



RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

February 4, 2008

Applicant(s): Manfred BAUMGARTNER et al

For: SLIDING BOARD, ESPECIALLY A SKI, AND METHOD FOR
PRODUCING SAME

Serial No.: 10/529 132

Group: 3618

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Examiner: Bottorff

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 4, 2007. The Office Action addresses claims 1-14. Applicant acknowledges Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-11 and 14 with thanks.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meader et al. US Patent No. 5 863 050 in view of Jones et al. US Patent 6 557 866. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants' remarks filed July 27, 2007 in response to the previous Office Action are incorporated herein.

Each of the cited references disclose a binding element that is mounted to a sliding board through the use of fasteners. In the case of Jones et al. '866, the binding element is secured directly to the sliding board. Meader et al. '050 discloses an insert plate that is foamed-in-place

within the sliding board. The binding element is then secured by fasteners to the insert plate. This is not equivalent to foaming an integrated binding into the core of the sliding board.

According to the claimed invention, the arranging element is connected to the sliding board by an anchoring element integrated into the core when it is foamed. The anchoring element is formed integrally with the at least one arranging element. This feature allows a simplified mounting procedure of the ski binding and provides for a more integrated sliding board system. The prior art references do not disclose this, but rather teach away from it. Meader et al. '050 requires the anchoring element to be foamed in, with the bindings later secured by a fastener. Jones et al. '866 requires fasteners. The sliding board disclosed by Meader et al. '050 or Jones et al. '866 is not complete and ready for attachment of the binding elements without further assembly and preparation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art references cited.

Claim 5 stands rejected over Meader et al. '050 in view of Allmann et al. US Patent No. 6 641 162. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Allmann et al. '162 discloses insertion and gluing of the binding element after formation of the sliding board. In light of the discussion above with respect to Meader et al. '050, the combination still fails to teach all of the claimed elements of claim 1 or claim 5. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 and reconsideration of the claim are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 and 12-13. Claims 9-11 are allowed. Early notice of allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of

the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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